That, as the distance of each capillary vessel from each other is more than double the breadth of the coloured layer surrounding each, even in the coloured ring the greater portion of the bone is really uncoloured, really white. And, lastly, that the dyeing of the bone is influenced by the mode in which the blood is distributed through it; some bones, from the peculiarities of their circulation, being coloured from within outwards, otherwise from without inwards.—*Ibid.* from *Ibid.*, Feb. 1842.

7. *Physiological Observations on Double Uterus.*—M. **Dumas** relates in the *Journal de la Soc. de Méd. Pratique de Montpelier*, a case of double uterus observed by himself, and refers to a number of similar cases, from a comparison of which he draws the following conclusions.

1st. The menstrual discharge may continue from the empty uterus, whilst the other contains an embryo.

2. The two uteri do not influence each other to such a degree, as that the empty one should be always under the immediate influence of the other which is fecundated.

3. The woman may be a virgin as regards the left one, and with child in the right, and *vice versa.* She may be at the full time with the one, and in labour, while with the other she is not near her period.

4. Superfetation may take place in cases of double uterus with double neck and os uteri, and also in cases of double uterus with single neck and os uteri.

5th. Notwithstanding the absence of anatomical proof of the existence of superfetation in cases of double uterus, its possibility ought to be admitted in legal medicine.

6th. In well marked cases of double uterus, there will be an inclination to the same side that the fertile womb is on; and all the symptoms will be slightly different from those observed in a case of single uterus.

7th. Although it cannot be laid down as a principle, that each cavity of the double uterus can become so developed, as to be able to contain a fœtus at the full period, yet we can believe in frequent abortions.

8th. The double uterus, when enlarged, renders labour and the expulsion of the after-birth difficult, and facilitates the laceration of the soft parts.

9th. Thanks to the form observed by M. Martin St. Ange, (in which the cavity of the neck of the uterus communicated with that of the body, by a narrow canal thirteen millimetres in length,) we can explain the retention of the secundines, and the difficulty experienced in their extraction, when the canal which retains them has not previously been sufficiently dilated.—*Gazette Méd. de Paris*, 4 Feb. 1842.

8. *Transposition of the Viscera.*—M. **Gerdy** communicated to the French Academy of Medicine 22d Feb., a case of transposition of all the organs; even the cavities of the heart were transposed.

MATERIA MEDICA AND PHARMACY.

9. *Emmenagogue Solution.*—M. **Bouchardat** recommends the following as an emmenagogue:—Chloro-aurati ammoniæ, ten grains; distilled water, 300 scruples; alcohol, 36°, 300 scruples. Make a solution, and preserve in a well-stoppered vessel. This preparation is used with much advantage in cases of amenorrhœa and dysmenorrhœa, arising from debility, and is far superior to other preparations of gold, such as, for instance, the cyanuret of that metal. It is given morning and evening in the dose of a coffee-spoonful in a cupful of pure water, duly sweetened. The chloro-aurate of ammonia is obtained by dissolving one part by weight of the perchloruret of gold with two parts by weight of the hydro-chlorate of ammonia, in a sufficient quantity of distilled water, aiding the solution by the addition of a few drops of weak nitro-muriatic acid (aqua

regia). The compound salt must be afterwards dried by a gentle heat.—*Prov. Med. Journ.* July 2, 1842, from *Annuaire de Therapeutique.*

10. *Chalybeate Preparations.*—Mr. Wm. Tyson gives the following formulæ for some chalybeate preparations which he extols as highly useful.

"The most valuable preparations of iron, are," he observes, "those which have the deutoxide for their base, as in the mineral waters, and in the formula I am about to give you.

Liquor Oxysulphatis Ferri.—℞. Ferri sulphat. ʒij (or ʒiij); acidi nitrici, ʒiij; aquæ dist., ℥iss.

Tere diligentèr per horæ quadrantem acidum nitricum ferro vitriolato, dein sensim addendo aquam, per chartam cola, et fiant guttæ, é quibus capiat æger gtt. v—xij bis in dies ex infuso quassiæ vel aquâ.

This form, I believe, was invented by Sylvester, about fortyy ears ago, and has ever since that time been in constant use among the practitioners of Derbyshire. I wonder it has not been inserted into the Pharmacopœia, as it is by far the best and most powerful of all the preparations of iron. The oxygen of the nitric acid uniting with the sulphate of iron, forms a persulphate; at the same time the iron is converted into red oxide. As a medicine it far surpasses the tinc. ferri mur., and it never precipitates the oxide of iron. It is one of the most valuable restoratives in the debility and torpor of the liver, which remains after the successful treatment of hepatitis. Patients do not well bear above ten or twelve drops to a dose; and when given with small doses of sulphas magnesiæ. &c., it equals the purgative mineral waters. I think it will be found to be an antidote to prussic acid, as it instantly combines with it.

This form having the red oxide for its base, enables me to obtain some of the mildest, most efficacious, and beautiful of the preparations of iron.

Ferri bitartras. ℞.—Ferri sulphatis, ʒiij; acidi nitrici, ʒiss. Tere simul guttatim:—cessatâ effervescentiâ, adde, aquæ font., ℥vj; potassæ supertart. ʒvj. Coque et liquorum tepidum per chartam cola; fiat sal siccum, s. a. Dose, gr. v—xx.

The sulphate of potass here produced, adds greatly to the efficacy of the medicine, rendering it gently aperient.

Potassio-tartras ferri. ℞.—Ferri sulphatis, ʒvj; acidi nitrici, ʒiij. Tere simul guttatim per horæ quadrantem, et adde, aquæ font., ℥vj. Misce et per chartam cola, cui adde potassæ carbonat., ʒvj—et sepone per aliquot horas; liquorem supernatantem effunde, ex oxido precipitato adde, bitartratis potassæ, ℥iss; aquæ font., ℥viij, vel, q. s.

Decoque et per chartam cola;—leni calore consumatur liquor ad pulverem siccum. Dose, the same.

These two preparations dissolved in boiling water, continue in solution when cold.

Ammonio-tartras ferri.—℞. acidi tartarici, ʒij; ammoniæ carb., ʒj; aquæ font., ℥vj, vel, q. s. Misce fiat solutio.—℞ liq. ferri oxysulph., ℥j; liq. potassæ, q. s. M.

Wash the precipitate with distilled water upon a filter; add the oxide, while in the state of hydrate, to the above solution, and with a gentle heat dissolve the iron, and evaporate to dryness. Vel, ℞ liq. oxysulphat. ferri, ℥j; potassæ subcarb., ʒiij; aquæ font., ℥vj. M.

The precipitated oxide to be treated as above. Dose, gr. v—x.

Perfectly soluble in water. Contains about one grain in four of deutoxide of iron.

Here we have three preparations of tartrate of iron, which, when mixed with a due proportion of water, are remarkable for their solubility, and the beautiful golden colour of the solution; hence they form elegant mixtures for medicinal purposes.

Liquor ferri biniodidi.—℞ potassæ hydriodat., ʒss; aquæ puræ, ʒx. Misce, et adde liq. ferri oxysulph., ʒij. M. Dose, gr. xx—xxx, bis die.

This solution is of a beautifully deep red colour, and transparent. It contains, like most other iodides, a little free iodine; but retains its colour, and does not part with its iron; for I have some now by me which was made six years ago, and the only deposit is a little sulphate of potass. The liquor oxysulphatis ferri is also a test for the purity of hydriodate of potash, producing in the above proportions a deep transparent solution.

In medicine, as well as in the arts, much disappointment would be avoided, and much advantage gained, in attending to the base, that is to say, to the state of oxidation of the mineral made use of; each oxide possessing essential properties, differing materially from each other. This we have already seen in the observations upon antimony and mercury; but it is more particularly evinced in the use of copper. In copper we have a valuable tonic and astringent in some cases of epilepsy, chorea, and uterine hemorrhage; but nearly all the preparations now in use are unmanageable, as they contain peroxide, which is poisonous; while the protoxide is nearly inert. Even the ammoniaret, which is the mildest of them all, still requires the greatest care, as it also contains peroxide. —*Lancet*, June 25, 1842.

11. *Mode of preserving Nitrate of Silver.*—M. DUMERIL has for a long while employed a very simple process for preserving the nitrate of silver from the injurious effects of exposure to the air, when run into sticks. It consists in merely coating the caustic with engraver's sealing-wax, which contains a large quantity of shellac. This wax adheres very well, and forms a strong and smooth varnish, as it were, which remains unaffected by the atmosphere. Thus protected the nitrate no longer stains the fingers, injures the caustic-case, nor is in any way changed by the moisture in the air, possesses a greater degree of solidity, and, at the same time, the process is of exceeding service in practice, inasmuch as when wanted for use, a small part only of the caustic need be uncovered by means of a penknife, so that its application can be restricted to the part where it is required. This is of peculiar utility in ulceration of the throat, aphthæ, fissures, &c.—*Prov. Med. Journ.* July 2, from *Bull. de Thérap.*

12. *External application of Croton oil.*—Whenever it is required to use this method of counter-irritation, M. Bouchardat strongly recommends a plaster which has been much used by M. Chomel at the Hôtel Dieu, and which is thus prepared: Four parts of diachylon-plaster are melted at a very gentle heat, and while it is half liquid one part of croton oil is mixed with it, and the mixture is then spread in a thick layer on calico. Pieces cut from this may be applied to the skin, like ordinary sticking-plaster, and quickly produce an active irritation. —*B. & F. Med. Rev.* July 1842, from *Bull. Gén. de Thérapeutique*, March, 1842.

13. *On the use of the Ergot of Rye.*—Dr. GEO. FIFE states that the ergot of rye is a useful medicine in *polypus uteri*, attended with profuse hemorrhage,—*menorrhagia*, where there is no inordinate action of the heart or arteries, or morbid sensibility of the uterine system,—in *leucorrhœa*, when independent of inflammatory action,—in *chlorosis* with amenorrhœa,—and in *dysmenorrhœa*. The first time Dr. Fife saw the ergot exhibited, was by the late Dr. Parr, of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in 1828. "It was in a case of *polypus of the uterus*,* accompanied with frequent and frightful attacks of hemorrhage. He gave the ergot after all ordinary means had proved unavailing. The effect produced was not only the moderation of the hemorrhage, but also the expulsion of large and numerous masses of the tumour, in many of which a distinct fibrous structure was perceptible. After its continued employment, the woman, who had arrived at the climacteric period, enjoyed comparative health and comfort, being freed from the repeated and alarming hemorrhages, and experiencing no inconvenience from the small portion of the tumour which, when last examined, still remained. In certain cases of *menorrhagia*, Dr. F. has found this medicine of the greatest

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* *Vide* Monthly Journal, p. 416, 1841, (Mr. Moyle's paper,) and p. 570 (Dr. Sommerville's paper.)

value. "In this disease," he remarks, "it is necessary to ponder well on the individual circumstances of each case, and to use the utmost caution in ascertaining the cause on which the disease depends; as where such precaution has been neglected, it has been my lot to see both the sufferings and danger aggravated by the ergot. In this respect it does not differ from other active medicines. The slightest reflection will suffice to call to mind the very different states of the system in which this disease occurs. It may, for example, happen in the most phlogistic and plethoric, or it may arise in a person of a diametrically opposite constitution. If given in the first state, it is decidedly prejudicial, unless preceded by such means as are calculated to remove alike the plethora and morbid sensibility; and even when this has been done, its operation requires to be carefully observed. In the last, it acts most beneficially, as it at once raises the nervous energy of the uterus, and, through this medium, probably imparts increased tone to the relaxed and debilitated vessels from which the exhalation takes place." "In several distressing cases of *leucorrhœa*, where the strongest astringent injections had been employed without any effect, except exciting inflammatory action which did not previously exist, I have found the ergot, aided by injections of simple warm water, or the decoction of poppy capsules, perfectly successful." In this disease, it is particularly necessary to attend to the state of the system and the nature of the uterine disorder, before deciding upon exhibiting the ergot. "In *chlorosis* and *amenorrhœa*, I have," says Dr. F., "frequently experienced the good effects of the ergot after aloes, iron, valerian, cantharides, &c., had all been employed without the slightest advantage. In those cases where extreme nervous sensibility exists, it may be most advantageously combined with the valerian, and where the alvine system is torpid, with aloes."* In dysmenorrhœa, Dr. Fife found it very useful; and in one very severe case, wherein he combined it with valerian, "it appeared almost magical in its operation." The doses recommended are gr. x to ℈i of the powder, and ʒss to ʒi of the concentrated tincture; but how frequently administered is not stated. In one case of menorrhagia, ℥ss was ordered to be taken in ℈i doses, every three or four hours. As to the *modus operandi*, practical men will care little if the facts are found to be as Dr. F. and others report them to be. However, it is not difficult to see how "a congested state of the uterine vessels will in one person lead to menorrhagia—the same cause operating on a different constitution will be attended with leucorrhœa." Again, when the nervous system of the uterus is at fault, we in one person have chorea, in another simple hysteria, in others cardiac and pulmonary symptoms.—*Lond. and Edin. Month. Journ.*, Feb. 1842, from *London Med. Gaz.*, June 18th, 1841.

14. *Ergot of Rye.*—Dr. Wm. Catlett, in a paper in the *Edinburgh Med. and Surg. Journ.* for January last, endeavours to illustrate certain pathological effects of this drug when administered to the parturient female, which do not appear to have especially attracted the attention of the profession. These are, 1st, The supervention of puerperal convulsions. This complication he holds to be clearly traceable to the ergot in three cases which he reports, and the circumstances of which differed considerably from each other. His experience is decidedly opposed to the practice recommended by Dr. Stearns, of employing ergot in cases where convulsions have occurred, and as a preventative in protracted labours when they appear imminent. 2d, The production of true hour-glass contraction of the uterus. The circumstances under which this effect is likely to follow the use of the ergot, are some such concatenation of circumstances as the following:—a lymphatic state of the maternal constitution—a nervous temperament—lingering labour from defective, natural contractions of the womb, which the administration of ergot has not succeeded in improving—and this state connected with the previous death of the child *in utero*. 3d, Its tendency to produce hydrocephalus in the early stage of infantile life. To substantiate this, the author reports five cases where the ergot was administered under various cir-

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* As an emmenagogue, Dr. F. prefers the Barbadoes to the Socotrine aloes.

cumstances of labour, and in all of which the child died with symptoms of hydrocephalus at various periods, from the 8th day to the end of the second month after birth. "It will be seen," he observes, "that of these cases, there are none connected with a first delivery, or any in which the child was subjected to very lengthened or forcible impaction. Is there any warrant from this fact, to infer that the ergot had here exerted any specific influence upon the fœtal constitution, as alluded to by Dr. F. H. Ramsbotham, independent of the extra-mechanical pressure induced by its action? It becomes, indeed, a very interesting question, if it be admitted that ergot has an agency in the cerebral disturbance thus set up in the infant economy, to determine in what manner it is effected, whether, as above hinted, it be a purely mechanical effect, or occurring through the medium of direct absorption into the fœtal system. The short period which was allowed for its operation in the cases adduced, militates against this conclusion, but by no means renders it impossible. The effects that ergot is admitted to exert on the cerebro-spinal axis, are generally stated to be those constituting the leading symptoms of narcotism, viz., dilatation of pupil, giddiness, delirium, and stupor, and this might, with no great latitude of argument, be insisted upon as probably opening up a sufficiently morbid action to constitute predisposition." Dr. Catlett's estimate, in the conclusion of his paper, of the true value of the ergot, as applicable to obstetric practice is, that it is a substance of energetic power, the employment of which in the stages of labour *antecedent to the birth* of the child, is generally *contra-indicated*, and only admissible where there is serious hemorrhage from partial detachment of the placenta, accompanied by deficient uterine tone. But in the *last stage* of parturition, it may be of essential service in checking hemorrhage from whatever cause.—*Ibid.*

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15. *Ergot.*—M. Bonjean, of Chambéry, has determined by numerous experiments—1st, That the ergot, gathered the first day of its formation, has not the poisonous properties which it possesses when taken on the sixth day. 2d, That a heat of 100° C. (212° Fr.) produces the same effect as gathering it too early. 3d, That fermentation also deprives it of its properties. 4th, That old and damaged ergot loses nothing in this respect; which circumstances are important, as they serve to explain the want of success which sometimes attends its administration.

M. Bonjean has discovered two different active principles:

1st, One which acts as a poison, is the oil of ergot, of a uniform consistence, an acrid flavour, a yellowish colour, soluble in cold ether and in boiling alcohol, possesses poisonous properties in a high degree. The author considers that twelve grammes of this oil are equivalent to thirty-two grammes of the ergot of rye; but he has observed, that at a temperature of 80° or 100° (C.) it loses these violent properties, and becomes converted into a resin. It is, therefore, better to prepare it with cold ether.

2d, The aqueous extract is obtained by treating with water the powder, either deprived of its oil or not; it is brown, of a thick consistence and musty smell. It is soluble in water, and can be formed into mixtures, syrups, pills, &c. It is not at all poisonous, but possesses very decided anti-hemorrhagic properties, which induced the author to call it *anti-hemorrhagic extract;* but it appears, that to name a product, which has been but little examined, according to one of its effects, is objectionable. M. Blanc, of Aix-les-Bains, has obtained excellent effects from the use of this extract; in a case of abundant and obstinate hemorrhage, giving from fifty centigrammes to one gramme in the course of the day. M. Bonjean thinks it applicable to hemorrhages, whether simple or puerperal.

He insists on the real advantage of separating the two active principles by analysis, the styptic extract and the poisonous oil.—*Pharmaceutical Journal*, Jan. 1842, from *Journal de Chimie Méd.*